

Proclamation 6092 of February 8, 1990

National Burn Awareness Week, 1990 and 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Burn injury is a serious problem in the United States. Each year, some two million people suffer from burn injuries. Approximately 70,000 of these Americans must be hospitalized for some period of time, and more than 12,000 burn victims die each year as a result of their injuries. Tragically, children, elderly men and women, and persons with disabilities are those most likely to become the victims of serious burns.

All Americans can make their homes, cars, and workplaces safer by learning more about the causes of burn injuries and how to prevent them. One of the most important steps we can take is installing—and carefully maintaining—smoke detectors in our homes and places of business. Developing good safety habits is also critical. For example, both children and adults should take time to learn about the safe use of stoves, heaters, and electrical power. Adults should be sure to know the proper way to store and handle flammable materials, and every American should learn what to do in the event of fire, including the “Stop, drop, and roll” maneuver that can help prevent serious burn injuries. Those families that have not yet done so should make plans for escaping a house fire—and every American family should review and practice the plan it has.

In recent years, scientific research has yielded major advances in the prevention and treatment of burn injuries. The development of new technology and materials has helped bring about the production of safer fabrics and improved fire detection equipment. Improved medical techniques are helping to reduce the time burn victims must spend in the hospital. They are also saving lives. Today greater assistance is available to those suffering from the psychological and emotional impact of burn injuries.

Across the country, dedicated health care professionals, firefighters, and educators are working tirelessly to prevent burn injuries and to care for those who fall victim to them. In recognition of their efforts and in order to promote public awareness of the need to prevent burn injuries, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 217, has designated the weeks beginning February 4, 1990, and February 3, 1991, as “National Burn Awareness Week.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the weeks of February 4 through February 10, 1990, and February 3 through February 9, 1991, as National Burn Awareness Week. I call upon all Government agencies, health care organizations, public safety organizations, and the people of the United States to observe these weeks with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and

of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6093 of February 12, 1990

181st Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

A true friend of the common man and a courageous leader at our Nation's greatest hour of trial, Abraham Lincoln occupies a special place of honor in the hearts of all Americans. Each February 12, as we commemorate the anniversary of his birth, we celebrate the peace and unity of purpose President Lincoln reclaimed for this country—and the shining hope he restored to all mankind.

When he became President in 1861, Abraham Lincoln was faced with a grave crisis: seven States, determined to preserve the institution of slavery and to assert what they viewed as their sovereign rights, had seceded from the Union. After a military confrontation at Fort Sumter, the Civil War began.

Lincoln believed that the success of our Nation's great experiment in self-government depended on the strength and integrity of the Union and on the degree to which Americans, as well as the national Government, remained true to the ideals expressed at the Founding. Although the War tried his skills as President and tested whether a nation "so conceived and so dedicated" could long endure, his convictions proved unshakable. In a July 4th Address to the Congress, he declared that the War was nothing less than "a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form and substance of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men . . . to afford all an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in the race of life."

Abraham Lincoln knew that for the United States to endure, it must remain faithful to the noble ideal enshrined in our Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Lincoln believed that excluding any human beings from this promise undermines the moral foundation on which our Nation rests. He had once argued that our Nation's Founding Fathers "meant to set up a standard maxim for a free society, which should be familiar to all, and revered by all; constantly looked to, constantly labored for . . . thereby constantly spreading and deepening its influence and augmenting the happiness and value of life to all people of all colors everywhere." Lincoln knew that our Nation must always strive to fulfill its great promise, or risk its very existence.

Throughout the course of the War, Lincoln remained fully committed to the idea of liberty under law. For him, striving to uphold the Constitution and protect the rights of individuals was not only compatible with preserving the Union, but essential to it. In 1864, when he was elected